THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a) The accounts of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) were audited by qualified auditors approved by the Government. However, the accounts of erstwhile Indian Dairy Corporation (IDC) were audited by CAG.

(b) Section 28(1) of the NDDB Act, 1987 provides that the accounts of NDDB shall be audited by auditors duly qualified to act as auditors of companies under the Companies Act.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Food and Agriculture Organisation code on Pesticides

1305. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 304 in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1987 and state :

(a) whether Government have by now adopted Food and Agriculture Organisation code on Pesticides including the Prior Informed Clause (PIC) in view of its acceptance in principle made at Rome; and

(b) whether the available infrastructure is adequate to implement various provisions of the Code and Insecticides Act and if so, the details thereof indicating weaknesses if any an the proposed remedial steps?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) adopted a resolution, to which India was a party, for the inclusion of Prior Informed Consent in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides in its 25th Session held in November, 1989 at Rome.

(b) The main emphasis of the Code is on:

(i) regulation of the manufacture and use of Pesticides in the country;

(ii) establishing mechanism for ensuring the quality of pesticides and safety in the distribution of pesticides;

(iii) regulatory mechanisms for enforcing standards so as to enhance bio-efficacy and reduce health and environmental hazards in the manufacture and trade of pesticides; and

(iv) prescription of labelling, packaging, storage and disposal requirements and restrictions.

These matters are already governed by the provision of Insecticides Act, 1968 and suitable infrastructure for their implementation exists.

Marketing of groundnut oil by NDDB

1306. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NDDB is packing and marketing 1 litre packs of Groundnut Oil @ Rs. 28.50 instead of sale in Kg. packs as required under the law and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what was the price paid to the farmers for this quantity of oil or equivalent of groundnut;

(c) what is the total packing cost per litre indicating royalty paid per pack and cost of foreign component in each tetra pack;

(d) what are the names of parties/ firms handling this product from beginning to end and the profit allowed to them and corrective action taken to protect consumer interest; and

(e) whether private parties are also distributing this product instead of co-operative Sector and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir. After obtaining the clearance of the appropriate authority, the National Diary Develoment Board has been packing and marketing edible oils in one litre tetra packs.

(b) The National Diary Development Board buys oil both from growers co-operatives and from the open market. During the oil year 1989-90 growers co-operatives paid on as average Rs. 7240 per tonne to the farmers for purchase of groundnuts.

(c) The total packing material cost of edible oil works out to Rs. 3.02 per litre. The tetra pack paper is being manufactured in India and no foreign payment is involved.

(d) The National Diary Development Board is marketing 'Dhara' oils through the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation. The Federation in turn uses a chain of wholesale dealers and through them thousands of retailers across the country. The margins allowed for these agencies are 2.5 per cent to the Federation, 3 per cent to wholesale dealers and 6 per cent for retailers. In Delhi NDDB is also marketing 'Dhara' oils through its own fruits and vegetables outlets. Consumers by and large are satisfied with quality and prices of 'Dhara' oils.

(e) NDDB is marking 'Dhara' oils through its own network of fruits and vegetables outlets in Delhi. In addition, it is also marketing through the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation's network of retail outlets in order to maximise the reach to consumers.

Encouragement of organic farming

1307. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US experts have recently highlighted the need for switching over to organic farming and sustainable agriculture during the Indo-US Workshop held recently in New Delhi;

(b) whether ICAR and India's scientists had been negligent in this frontier area by not undertaking any organised and well planned R&D and also disregarding Voluntary Groups engaged in promoting organic farming;

(c) whether a high powered task force or a technology mission would be set up on Organic Farming and controlled trials would be undertaken at each of the ICAR Institutes/Agricultural Universities/Government and State farms and National Demonstration Farms/KVK etc. throughout the country at the earliest; and

(d) whether non Government Organisations would also be suitably involved in this work?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Development of integrated nutrient management systems involving organics suited to different agro-climatic regions is being given due emphasis in the research programmes of ICAR Institutes and State Agril. Universities and the results are being advocated for adoption through extension system.

(d) Yes, Sir.

डी० आई० जैड० एरिया के केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग सेवा केन्द्र के पूछताछ कार्यालय पर तैनात कर्मचारियों के विरुद्ध शिकायतें

1308. श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया : क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) डी.आई.जैड. एरिया, सै.-4, केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण सेवा केन्द्र के पूछताछ कार्यालय पर तैनात कर्मचारियों के विरुद्ध पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान कुल कितनी लिखित शिकायतें प्राप्त हैं, तथा इसी अवधि के दौरान उन्होंने कितना कार्य किया है ;